

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 03668 191311Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 SP-02
STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 /087 W
-----114136 191312Z /43

P R 191242Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 862
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY
USNMR SHAPE FOR POLAD
USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR NL
SUBJECT: FORMATION OF DUTCH GOVERNMENT III

REF: A) THE HAGUE 3060 (DTG 140844Z JUN 77 B) THE HAGUE 3536
(DTG 111406Z JUL 77)

1. ON JULY 15, 44 DAYS AFTER HE HAD ACCEPTED A MANDATE TO
FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT, CARETAKER PRIME MINISTER JOOP DEN UYL
FAILED TO FORM A CENTER-LEFT COALITION AND ASKED THE QUEEN
TO BE RELIEVED OF HIS MANDATE. THE BREAKING POINT IN THE
NEGOTIATIONS WAS EXCESS PROFITS SHARING. AS DEN UYL EXPLAINED
LATER AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, THE CDA LACKED THE NECESSARY
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FLEXIBILITY TO INCLUDE WHAT DEN UYL REGARDED AS ESSENTIAL
PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE AMOUNT OF TAX ON PROFITS AND THE
NUMBER OF FIRMS TO BE COVERED. IN THE FACE OF SUCH UNWILLING-
NESS OF ACCOMMODATE LEGITIMATE WORKERS' INTEREST, DEN UYL
SAID, HE HAD BEEN FORCED TO GIVE UP THE ATTEMPT.

2. DEN UYL'S FAILURE WAS NOT WHOLLY UNEXPECTED. AS

INDICATED IN REFTELS, A NUMBER OF DIFFICULT SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES SEPARATED THE PVDA AND THE CDA. MOREOVER, WHILE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES HAD IMPROVED SOMEWHAT FROM THE LOW IN MARCH WHEN THE CDA BROUGHT THE DEN UYL GOVERNMENT DOWN, CONSIDERABLE DISTRUST REMAINED. ALSO, AFTER PROLONGED NEGOTIATIONS LARGELY BEHIND CLOSED DOORS ON WHAT THE LABOR UNIONS REGARD AS BREAD AND BUTTER ISSUES, DEN UYL MAY WELL HAVE FELT THE NEED TO EMPHASIZE AGAINST HIS LONG-STANDING PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO WHAT HE CALLS "THE LITTLE MAN." AT THE SAME TIME CDA'S VAN AGT PROBABLY NEEDED TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE MAIN RIGHT WING ELEMENTS IN HIS PARTY THAT HE DID NOT ALWAYS HAVE TO FOLLOW IN DEN UYL'S WAKE. FOR BOTH DEN UYL AND VAN AGT, THEREFORE, THERE WERE POLITICAL REASONS FOR TAKING A TOUGH STAND.

3. QUEEN JULIANA, AFTER SEEKING ADVICE FROM THE MAJOR PARTY LEADERS ACCORDING TO CUSTOM, ON JULY 18 ASKED VAN AGT TO FORM A GOVERNMENT. THE THRUST OF THE QUEEN'S REQUEST WAS THAT VAN AGT TRY FOR A CENTER-RIGHT COALITION WITH CDA AND VVD. VAN AGT DECLINED, HOWEVER, EXPLAINING THAT DEN UYL GAVE UP TOO EARLY AND URGING THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO EXPLORE A CENTER LEFT COALITION BEFORE ATTEMPTING OTHER POSSIBILITIES.

4. ONCE AGAIN THE QUEEN WILL BE SEEKING ADVICE FROM PARTY LEADERS. THE GREATEST LIKELIHOOD IS THAT SHE WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOW ASK ONE OR MORE PERSONS TO ACT AS INFORMATEURS. PARTY LEADERS WILL CONTINUE TO JOCKEY FOR POSITION, AS THE GENERAL PUBLIC WATCHES WITHOUT QUITE UNDERSTANDING THE LOCAL POLITICAL GAME. AT THIS POINT IT LOOKS AS IF A NEW GOVERNMENT IS STILL A LONG TIME AWAY.
MCCLOSKEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977THEHA03668
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770268-0414
Format: TEL
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770741/aaaabjaw.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e14d9a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 THE HAGUE 3060, 77 THE HAGUE 3536
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Aug-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1812860
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FORMATION OF DUTCH GOVERNMENT III
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, NL
To: STATE USEEC
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e14d9a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009